

tailed and do not attract the reader; and there is no separate chapter on near drowning.

I highly recommend this book to all students of intensive care medicine. It should be in the library of every intensivist and on an accessible bookshelf in every intensive care unit.

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Anesthesia in the elderly

Anesthesia and the Geriatric Patient. Edited by Susan Wilson Krechel. 252 pp. Illust. Grune & Stratton, Inc., Orlando, Florida. 1984. \$53.50. ISBN 0-8089-1661-0

This book sets out to "contribute to practising clinicians' overall understanding of the unique physiology of the geriatric patient" — an aim that is extremely well met. The 16 chapters are divided into sections that deal with the physiologic processes of aging in the major systems, preoperative assessment, pharmacology (including anesthetic agents), basic monitoring and anesthesia for various commonly encountered procedures in the elderly.

The first three chapters, on the physiologic processes of aging, are particularly thorough. They give a precise account of current knowledge in this field, pointing out the areas where knowledge is lacking and where further research is necessary to improve our understanding. The chapter on preoperative assessment is also extremely good. It stresses the need for thorough preoperative evaluation and points out the specific problems encountered when dealing with the geriatric patient. The chapter on monitoring is perhaps a little too basic, but that on pacemakers is excellent.

In general, the chapters deal-

ing with specific surgical procedures are good reviews. However, those on cardiothoracic and major vascular procedures are too vague, tend to be repetitive and would have been better as one chapter. The final chapter summarizes the preceding chapters and relates the changes in aging to the degree of risk associated with a surgical procedure in the elderly patient.

Although this book is not a requirement for every anesthesiologist's bookshelf, it deserves a place in the library of all departments of anesthesia.

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Browsings

Color Atlas of Histology. Finn Geneser. 213 pp. Illust. Munksgaard International Publishers Ltd., Copenhagen. 1985. Dkr. 300 (\$49). ISBN 87-16-09658-4

Textbook of Histology. Finn Geneser. 831 pp. Illust. Munksgaard International Publishers Ltd., Copenhagen. 1985. Dkr. 450 (\$73). ISBN 87-16-09658-4

To provide medical students with the best visual guidance during practical work with the microscope, Geneser chose for his atlas only colour photomicrographs (428), each usually demonstrating just one important feature; 400 of the plates are available from the publisher as a series of colour slides. Geneser's textbook, translated from the Danish, confines its colour illustrations to the end of the book; numerous black-and-white photomicrographs, electron micrographs and schematic drawings complement the text, which integrates classical morphology with advances in ultrastructural and physiological research. The textbook, also intended for medical students, explains not only concepts and principles but also anatomic and clinical terms. — Ed.

Medical Laboratory Manual for Tropical Countries. Vol. II. Monica Cheesbrough. 479 pp. Illust. Tropical Health Technology, Doddington, England; Butterworth (Publishers) Ltd., London. 1984. \$18.95 (US). ISBN 0-9507434-2-9

Volume I of this manual was devoted to parasitology and general laboratory practice; volume II is devoted to microbiology. The author has a real feel for health priorities in developing countries. The chapter on the bacteriologic testing of water supplies recognizes that inadequate water supplies are commonplace throughout the tropics. The comprehensive section on the collection, transport and examination of specimens will be useful to those working in rural areas. Good laboratory services are essential to health care programs in the tropics, and this book will be an extremely useful aid. Some of the contents will also interest laboratory workers in isolated nontropical settings.

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Textbook of Medical Physiology. 7th ed. Arthur C. Guyton. 1057 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. 1986. \$69.95. ISBN 0-7216-1260-1

Guyton published the first edition of this textbook in 1956 and has revised it every 5 years since. The book is divided into 12 organ-system sections plus special sections on physiology as related to sports, aviation, space travel and deep sea diving. Lest medical students be overwhelmed by its size, they should take heart in knowing that the author has conveniently divided the information in the text by using two print sizes: the areas in large print cover basic physiological information; the areas in smaller print focus on supplemental material.